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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
302 Post Office Building, Orlando, Florida

March 22, 1949

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1949.

FLORIDA

If Florida growers carry out their present plans, the acreage of field crops planted in 1949 will, in the aggregate, be somewhat less than last year. Crops not under agricultural programs (cowpeas, corn, oats and sweet potatoes) show little change from 1948 plantings, but program crops such as peanuts, tobacco and Irish potatoes follow the allotments. The corn acreage is expected to cover 712,000 acres, the same as planted in 1948. Oats shows 5 percent reduction to 137,000 acres, while sweet potatoes and cowpeas remain the same. For the crops under allotment, flue tobacco will be increased by 5 percent to 17,200 acres; 10 percent fewer peanuts will be planted, reducing the acreage of peanuts alone to 252,000 acres. Irish potatoes at 24,100 acres (3,000 of which is non-commercial) represents a 700 acre reduction. If present plans are consummated, there will be 200 acres more of shade tobacco in Florida and in the Georgia-Florida area. This will increase to 3,800 acres the shade planting in Florida and boost the Georgia-Florida area from 4,500 to 4,700 acres.

The season has been early this year. Crops are being seeded under generally favorable conditions, although rain is needed for best development of newly seeded acreage. The Irish potato crop has made excellent progress and is being harvested in south Florida along with other vegetables.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR FLORIDA - 1949

C R O P	Average 1938-47		Acreage Planted		
	Acreage	Yield per	1948	Indicated	1949 as
	Planted	Planted	Planted	1949	Percent
	Thousands	Acre	Acres	Acres	of 1948
Corn	726	10.5 Bu.	712	712	100
Oats	79	6.4 Bu.	144	137	95
Tame Hay a/	118	.54 Ton	127	117	92
Irish Potatoes	33.0	128 Bu.	24.8	24.1	97
Sweet Potatoes	18	66 Bu.	15	15	100
Tobacco, all a/	21.1	908 Lb.	20.1	21.1	105
Tobacco, Type 14	17.8	880 Lb.	16.4	17.2	105
Tobacco, Type 56	.4	943 Lb.	.1	.1	100
Tobacco, Type 62	2.8	1046 Lb.	3.6	3.8	106
Cowpeas	29		25	25	100
Peanuts b/	248		280	252	90

a/ Harvested acreage.

b/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR THE UNITED STATES - 1949

C R O P	Average	PLANTED	Indicated	1949 as per- cent of 1948
	1938-47	1948	1949	
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
Corn, all	90,590	86,196	84,809	98.4
All spring wheat	18,319	19,588	20,300	103.6
Durum	2,677	3,245	3,392	104.5
Other Spring	15,641	16,343	16,908	103.5
Oats	42,378	44,529	44,506	99.9
Barley	14,607	13,295	11,885	89.4
Flaxseed	3,472	4,889	4,713	96.4
Rice	1,378	1,757	1,753	99.8
Sorghums for all purposes	16,810	13,813	12,144	87.9
Potatoes	2,799	2,127	1,980	93.1
Sweet Potatoes	717	519	489	94.2
Tobacco 1/	1,653	1,538	1,596	103.8
Beans, dry edible	2,001	1,971	1,834	93.0
Peas, dry field	487	309	409	132.4
Soybeans, 2/	11,607	11,733	11,278	96.1
Cowpeas, 2/	2,459	1,115	1,011	90.7
Peanuts, 2/	3,466	3,879	3,175	81.9
Hay, 1/	73,966	73,616	73,718	100.1
Sugar beets	869	800	766	95.8

1/ Acreage harvested.

2/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

U N I T E D S T A T E S

GENERAL OUTLOOK

The smallest total acreage of spring-planted crops since the 1937-39 period appears in prospect for 1949. The decline in the total of 17 crops (including hay) surveyed at this date is from 275.0 million acres in 1948 to 270.2 million acres now in prospect. This is nearly offset, however, by the much larger acreage of winter wheat sown last fall, of which a larger proportion than usual apparently remains for harvest this season. The greatest decline in spring plantings will be in the feed grains, with smaller declines in the oilseeds - soybeans, flaxseed and peanuts - and most other row crops. The chief increases over last year are indicated for plantings of spring wheat, dry peas and tobacco. Spring activities are normal to advanced over most of the country. Soil moisture and irrigation water are generally in satisfactory supply. Supplies of farm labor, seeds and fertilizers are not likely to be limiting factors in acreages planted or grown in 1949.

ALL CROPS

Total prospective acreages exceed by about 1 percent the aggregate of allotments or suggested goals for the same crops. For oats, the intended acreage virtually equals the goal. Falling below allotments or goals were corn, by about 1-1/2 percent; all hay and tobacco, by about 4-1/2 percent; barley and sorghum, by about 12 percent, and sweet potatoes by about 19 percent. Allotments or suggested goals are exceeded for potatoes and dry beans by about 2 percent; for rice nearly 10 percent; for wheat by 14 percent, and for flaxseed by 56 percent. If the usual proportion of the peanut acreage is picked and threshed, the acreage will be nearly 2 percent below the allotment. Making a similar allowance for soybeans, the indicated acreage to be harvested for beans will be nearly 6 percent below the suggested goal.

The acreage in feed grains may be 4.5 million acres less than in 1948, if present plans materialize. Only oats are near the 1948 acreage, with increases in high yielding midwest areas offsetting declines in areas further south, where seeding has been delayed beyond usual dates. Corn acreage will be the smallest in more than 50 years, and sorghum acreage will be one-eighth less than last year. For both, prospective acreage is somewhat limited by the huge acreage in winter wheat, which is doing so well that only a small abandoned acreage is likely to be available for replanting to corn or sorghum. The barley acreage is 11 percent less than last year, largely because of disappointingly low prices for the 1948 crop. With carryover stocks of feed grains at a relatively high level, and livestock numbers at a relatively low level, heavy production of feed grains does not appear necessary to farmers. Hay acreage will be about the same as last year and average, intentions being based largely upon needs, which take into account the large reserves in many areas, and the short supplies in storm and other areas where winter feeding was heavy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Among the oilseeds, acreages of soybeans and flaxseed may be only slightly smaller than last year, but peanuts grown alone will be 18 percent lower, largely because of acreage allotments in effect this season. Tobacco acreage may exceed that of 1948 by nearly 4 percent, but is within the national allotment. Potatoes will be down nearly 7 percent and sweet potatoes 6 percent below the 1948 acreage. Dry beans will be down 7 percent, but dry peas will be up nearly one-third. The acreage of sugar beets may be 4 percent less than in 1948.

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